

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.59
Historic Name:	Knowles, Robert - Sherman, Capt. Jonathan House
Common Name:	
Address:	650 Bridge Rd
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	20-083
Year Constructed:	c 1770
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Altered beyond recognition; Colonial; Italianate
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	EAS.J: Bridge - Dyer Prince Roads Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

pl-2
EAS.59

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

20/083

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

59

Town

Eastham

Neighborhood or village)

650 Bridge Road

Common Name

Present Residential

Original "

Construction c. 1770

See Bibliography*

Form Italianate

Architect/Builder

Construction Material:

here. Indicate North.

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Clapboards, Shingles
(South and Rear Elevation)

Roof Not Visible

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates) Enlarged from
1 to 2 stories (1850's)

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage .67 Acres

Setting Located on a secondary street in
a moderately-settled, rural area near the
intersection of Dyer Prince Road.

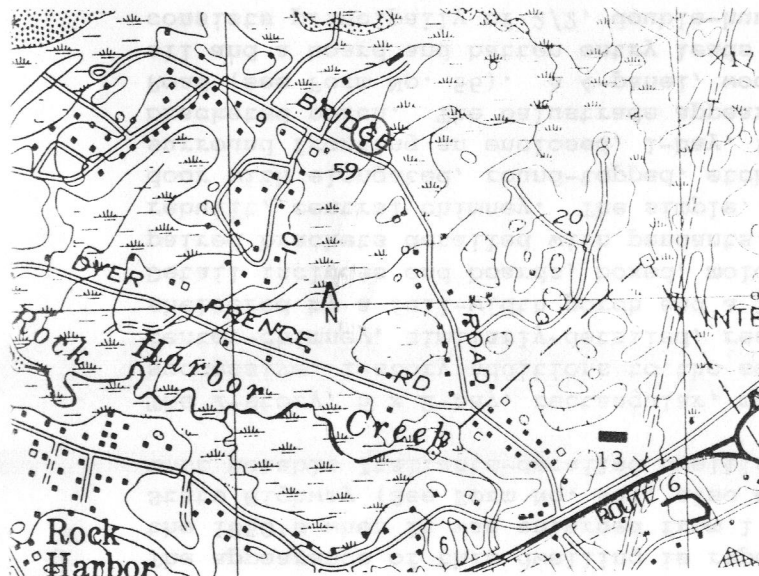
Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej
and Sanford Johnson
Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: August 1995

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SFP 20 1995

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BUILDING FORM

650 Bridge Road

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The appearance of this dwelling is reputed to have been radically changed in the 1850's when it was enlarged from 1 to 2 stories. Today, it and 70 Old State Highway (See Form No. 43), also expanded from a 1-story house, are the most notable Italiante-detailed dwellings in Eastham.

The 2-story, 5 x 2-bay, rectangular, main block has been extended with successive, 1-story additions to the southeast including a flat roofed, center-chimney, similarly-detailed, residential ell with secondary entry sheltered by a full-width porch and a 1-story, gable-roofed, attached shed. Detail includes end boards, boxed, molded cornice, wide, plain frieze with paired brackets detailed with pendants. A 1-bay, square, belvedere fronts a rebuilt, central chimney. The simple, center entry consists of a 4-panel, door with elongated, round-topped, etched-glass lights set in a paneled surround fronting an enclosed, 1-bay, flat-roofed, balustraded and bracketed porch. The balustrade appears to be copied from that at 220 Bridge Road (see Form No. 56). A 4-panel, wooden door provides access to the side ell and a board and batten entry leads to the attached shed. Fenestration consists principally of 2/2, double-hung sash, although 2, 9/6 light windows remain on the north elevation and 6/6, double-hung sash are utilized in the attached shed. The molded window casing is an unusual trim for Eastham, perhaps reflective of the access and taste of its lumber dealer owner. Louvered blinds are inappropriately-mounted replacements.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Rogers map of 1795 and the Hales map of 1831 indicate Bridge Road was laid out during the Federal Period. The reconnaissance report of the Massachusetts Historical Commission describes the road as a local loop off King's Highway. A meetinghouse was built in the area by 1720 and a school was built in 1762. By 1831, there were salt works, several residences and a shallow canal from the Boat Meadow River to Town Cove near the southern end of Bridge Road. The road was extended north in 1837 when a bridge was constructed over the Boat Meadow River according a name to the route. Agriculture played an important role in the development of Eastham from the Colonial Period through the Early Modern Period.

According to Howard Quinn, the house at 650 Bridge Road was built c. 1770 by Robert Knowles. Little information on Knowles who is not mentioned in local, secondary sources, was found. He died in 1795 and left the property to his widow or daughters as long as each remained unmarried. His widow remarried and each of their three daughters wed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

 X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

Area Form No. 59

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

The middle daughter, Mehitabel Knowles, the last to marry came into possession of the property. She wed Michael Sherman.

A subsequent owner in the 1850's was Captain Jonathan Sherman (b. Eastham, 1798), the son of Micah and Lydia (Higgins) Sherman. Jonathan Sherman owned a lumber yard. In partnership with his brother, Richard, who owned extensive timberland near his home in Winterport, Maine, he ran a successful business in which his ships transported the lumber from Maine to Rock Harbor. Jonathan Sherman was responsible for enlarging the house from one to two stories and adding the Italianate details. He undertook this project after becoming successful in the shipping, lumber and saltmaking businesses. J. Sherman is noted as the owner of the house on the 1858 map of Eastham.

By 1880, the owner was E. Harden, who is not referenced in local secondary sources. By 1908, the owner was Mrs. Adeline Biathrow who is not listed in the 1901 Directory. She willed the property to her brothers John and Nathan Walker in 1914. Nathan sold his share to John the same year. John Walker sold to John F. Walker (relationship undocumented) in 1924.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*House File, 650 Bridge Road, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

*Quinn, Howard. Transcript of Oral History Tape, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Lowe, Alice Alberta. Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham. (Falmouth: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), pp. 93 and 138.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Report: Eastham, Massachusetts.

Hales, John G. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830.

Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, 1901.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

_____. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston Walker Lithographer and Publishing Co., 1908.

Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

EAS. 59

650 Bridge Road
Eastham

Area Form No



Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Eastham
Property Address: 650 Bridge Road

EAS. 59

Area Form No. 59

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The property at 650 Bridge Road is significant on a local level with regard to the above-referenced criteria as a large house and rare example of an Italianate style residence in Eastham. It is also significant for its association with Captain and local business man Jonathan Sherman who reputedly enlarged a 1 1/2-story house into the present dwelling.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form ☒ _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

EAS.59

Community: Eastham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10/16/95

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 12/6/95

Type: ☒ Individual

☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name:

Inventory Form: EAS.59

Address: 650 Bridge Road

Requested by: Eastham Historical Commission

Action: ☒ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☐ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☒ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

LEVEL: ☐ Local ☐ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Betsy Friedberg

Originally a one-story house, according to local history, this building was enlarged in the 1850s to a two-story house with cupola. The property appears to meet Criterion C and possibly Criterion A as an example of the expansion of a very early property. However, to assess eligibility of this property, MHC staff would need more information on surviving historic interior features and interior evidence of the property's mid-19th-century expansion, as well as information on the history of the property's ell additions. Historic photographs might be useful to document the building's history.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
 Copies: Inventory form ☒
 Town file(w/corresp.)
 Macris
 NR director

Community: Eastham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10.12.2010

Date Reviewed: 11.3.10

Type: ☒ Individual

☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Jonathan Sherman House

Inventory Form: 59

Address: 650 Bridge Road

Requested by: Don Watson, property owner

Action: ☒ Honor ☐ ITC

☐ Grant

☐ R & C

☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☐ Eligible

☐ Eligible, also in district

☒ Eligible only in district

☐ Ineligible

☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible

☐ Ineligible

☐ More information needed

CRITERIA:

☒ A

☐ B

☒ C

☐ D

LEVEL:

☒ Local

☐ State

☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Karen L. Davis

The Jonathan Sherman House is a connected, south-facing complex consisting of a two-story Italianate-style main block with cupola, a one-story wing, and an attached ell, possibly a former shed. According to local sources the present main block incorporates a 1-1/2 story house of the 1770s. The current owner believes that the ell is the oldest portion of the complex. While the exterior is a good example of an 1850s Italianate-style house, photographs of the interior do not show contemporaneous period features. Information provided along with the photographs indicates that the interior was substantially altered beginning in the 1970s, when the house was jacked up and given a new foundation. The interior of the living-dining room is characterized by exposed joists, beams, and brickwork, including what appears to be the only fireplace. Plaster surfaces throughout the house were replaced in 2003. There are no crown moldings or mid-19th century mantelpieces, and the main staircase has a 1970s aesthetic. The ell, which was threatened with demolition, was restored in 2005. Its framing and sheathing were retained. New material included sistered framing, reshingling the side and rear elevations, covering the interior walls with barn boards, and replacement of the windows, door, and flooring in kind.

The Jonathan Sherman House is highly significant to the streetscape and a rare example of the Italianate style in Eastham. It is also important for its association with Jonathan Sherman, a ship captain, lumber dealer, and salt maker. The high style and size of the house he built indicate that Sherman was a prosperous man. The house was included in a proposed National Register District that was withdrawn in 2001 due to the objection of more than fifty percent of the property owners.

Because the interior of the house does not retain Italianate features or historic finishes, and because its current interior appears to date to the last 50 years, and because the house is in a potential National Register District, it is the opinion of the MHC staff that the house is eligible for listing in the National Register only in a district.